

WHAT IS THE PARENTS' NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL UNION ?

The Parents' Educational Union has arisen in response to a demand from thoughtful people for wisdom and knowledge in "learning how"—how to know the laws which govern the formation of habit, how to deal with hereditary tendencies, how to give intelligent supervision and guidance, how to develop and nourish the child's threefold nature.

It must be granted that a mass of practical scientific knowledge, moral and physical, has been accumulated during the last twenty years on the subject of Education.* It cannot be too clearly stated that parents are incurring a heavy responsibility, a responsibility that did not rest in the same degree on the former generation, if they neglect to make use of this knowledge. Those parents who deliberately choose to educate their children by the insufficient light of tradition and instinct, refusing to study and profit by the fuller light given to the present generation of parents, do so at their own and their children's peril.

The author of "Ecce Homo" has brought a terrible charge against parents. "Look," he says, "how the English people treat their children. Try and discover from the way they train them, from the education they give them, what they wish them to be. They have ceased, almost consciously ceased, to have any ideal at all. . . . Whatever they wish, they wish so languidly that they entrust the realization of it almost entirely to strangers, being themselves, so they say—and, indeed, the Philistine or irreligious person always is—much engaged. The parent, from sheer embarrassment and want of an ideal, has, in a manner abdicated. . . . The modern schoolmaster should change his name, for he has become a kind of standing or professional parent."

It is not too much to say that the Parents' Union has arisen to remedy this state of things. It strives to show parents that they cannot, by money payments, divest themselves of their responsibilities. It endeavours to supply them with knowledge

*The word "Education" must be taken in its broadest and truest sense and must not be confused with the word "instruction."

and training for their task, to impress on them the absolute necessity for giving careful thought and study to the subject of Education, and to show them that without wisdom and knowledge parental love will be maimed and unable to rise to its true perfection.

A reproach is levelled against the Parents' Union that it claims to have made a discovery, and to call "new" things that were known long ago! This is a misunderstanding. The so-called "New Education" is only a recognition of the fact that as a child's nature is threefold: physical, intellectual, and ethical, so all true education must deal with those three sides of his nature, to the exclusion of none. The "New Education" further recognises that without the understanding, supervision, and guidance of his parents, the child's education will lack harmony and adaptability to its individual requirements. All this was, of course, understood by the gifted few, the wisest and best parents and teachers from Plato downwards. But now it is made known, so that those who run may read, so that none can plead ignorance as an excuse for not learning.

The Parents' Union is a voice uplifted to declare that there is a lofty ideal towards which parents can and must strive if they would make their children effectual men and women. It is a voice that is full of hope and promise for the English people, against whom Professor Seeley has, with undoubted justice, laid the grave charge that, by their wilful incapacity, "professional parents" have become a necessity in England.

Any one desirous of doing so can obtain a Report and full particulars as to the various agencies of the Parents' Educational Union at work in towns and in the country to supply practical help to parents, by applying to the Hon. Sec., the LADY ISABEL MARGESSON, 63, S. George's Road, S.W., enclosing 3½d. in stamps.

GIRLS' GAMES CLUB.

REPORT,

APRIL, 1894.

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The fee for membership of the club is £1 is., and the Committee have decided to charge 10s. 6d. entrance fee to all new members other than sisters of existing ones.

New members must be proposed by an existing one, or must give two householders as references.

The club ground is situated in North Kensington, being a portion of the West London Cricket Ground in Upper Highlever Road, close to Wormwood Scrubbs Station, whence omnibuses and trains run frequently to all parts of London.

Chairman,
9, Pembridge Gardens.

BALANCE SHEET.

31st MARCH, 1894.

Dr.		Cr.
	<p> £ s. d. To 29 Subscriptions @ £1 1s. ... 30 9 0 „ 19 Half-yearly ditto @ 10s. 6d. ... 9 19 6 „ 3 Holiday ditto @ 2s. 6d. ... 0 7 6 </p>	<p> £ s. d. By Rent 25 0 0 „ Printing and Stationery ... 4 8 2 „ Postage ... 2 13 6 „ Materials ... 3 15 6 „ Gratuity to Groundman ... 0 10 0 </p> <hr/> <p> £36 7 2 </p> <p> Balance at Bankers', 31st March, 1894 ... 4 8 10 </p> <hr/> <p> £40 16 0 </p>

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